Catalogue of American Amphbians and Reptiles.

Powell, R. 1999. *Anolis longiceps.*

Anolis longiceps Schmidt

Anolis longiceps Schmidt 1919:521. Type locality, "the island of Navassa." Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 12597, an adult male, collected 16 July 1917 by R.H. Beck (not examined by author).
Anolis porcatus longiceps: Barbour 1937:120.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** *Anolis longiceps* is a member of the *carolinensis* group reaching a maximum SVL of 83 mm (males) and 76 mm (females). Loreals are in 4 rows and one scale separates the supraorbital semicircles; additional counts include 3 scales between interparietal and supraorbital semicircles, 5 postrostrals, and 2 postmentals. Suboculars are in contact with supralabials. Dorsal scales are large, "almost" imbricate (Schwartz and Henderson 1991), and coarsely keeled. Supradigital scales are multicarinate.

Dorsal color ranges from bright green to brown. Most adults are uniformly colored, although some individuals exhibit a faint series of light spots on the head, neck, and middorsal region. These spots, when evident, are white in the brown phase and usually pale yellow in the green phase, except in large males, in which they appear bluish. The venter is white and the small dewlap is pale orange with white scales. Juveniles often possess a lineate dorsal pattern, most evident laterally, with thin light lines composed of small spots which are occasionally fused. The throat also may bear faint dark lines.

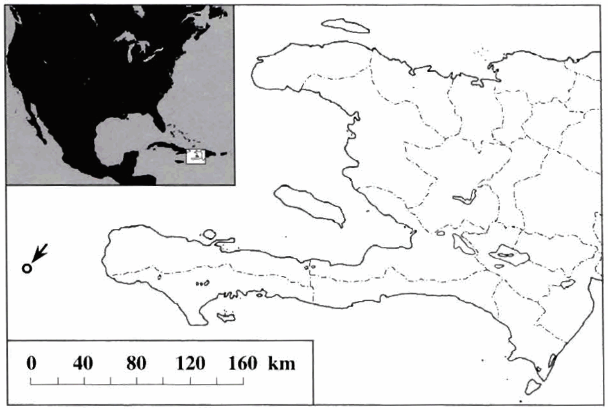
• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Anolis longiceps* can be distinguished from other members of the *carolinensis* group, except *A. maynardi* from Little Cayman Island, by the exceedingly acuminate snout. From *A. maynardi*, these anoles can be distinguished (Thomas 1966, Schwartz and Henderson 1991) by coarser keeling of the dorsal scales, a more prominently differentiated middorsal zone, and in having 4 rows of loreals (2–3 in *A. maynardi*), one scale between supraorbitals (2 in *A. maynardi*), 3 scales between interparietal and supraorbital semicircles (one in *A. maynardi*), 2 postmental scales (6 in *A. maynardi*), and multicarinate supradigital scales (smooth in *A. maynardi*).

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** In addition to the brief original description by Schmidt (1919), Thomas (1966) provided a detailed definition which was the basis of a synopsis in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Schmidt (1921) provided a line drawing illustrating a dorsal view of the head of the holotype. Powell (1999) included a black and white photograph of an adult male.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Anolis longiceps* is ubiquitous on Navassa where it utilizes a wide variety of habitats ranging from trunks and large branches in open, moderately xeric forest to rock surfaces (both vertical and horizontal), palm fronds, cactus scrub, buildings and ruins, the ground, and even leaf litter. The range was illustrated in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** Patton (1967 [1968]) provided a preliminary list of fossil vertebrates of "probable Pleistocene age;" included was an *Anolis* sp. I am more inclined to believe this material to be Recent and probably historical. Included among Patton's "fossils" was a shell fragment tentatively identified as an emydid turtle (Auffenberg 1967). That a pond turtle would exist on Navassa, an island without surface water of any kind, is unlikely. If the fragment was properly identified, I believe that its presence is probably due to turtles having been brought from elsewhere for use as food by miners during the latter half of the 19th century. If true, that would raise questions about the age of other materials (e.g., *Anolis*) found in the same deposit.



MAP. The circle marks Navassa Island, throughout which *Anolis longiceps* is found.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Schmidt (1921) proposed a relationship with *A. porcatus* of Cuba through *A. maynardi* from Little Cayman Island. Mertens (1939) listed the species with Navassan forms having Cuban affinities. Thomas (1966) suggested that the similarity with *A. maynardi* was such that it might warrant subspecific recognition — unless due to convergence. Williams (1969) indicated a direct Cuban origin. Poe (1998) compared skull characters of this species with twig anole clades. Powell et al. (1999) provided a historical perspective of Navassan herpetology in which they discussed *A. longiceps*. Powell (1999) discussed natural history.

The species was included in checklists by Barbour (1930, 1935, 1937), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), Williams (1976), MacLean et al. (1977), Banks et al. (1987), Schwartz and Henderson (1988), O'Hara and Williams (1994, see also Will-



FIGURE. Adult male *Anolis longiceps* from near the lighthouse on Navassa Island.

iams et al. 1995), Fläschendräger and Wijffels (1996), and Powell et al. (1996, 1999).

• **REMARKS.** Etheridge (1960) listed this species as "*Anolis carolinensis longiceps*," but a dissertation is explicity excluded as a source of a published name by Article 9(11) of the ICZN. Thomas (1966) noted that *Anolis longiceps* may be the most common lizard on Navassa and expressed surprise that it had not been described before 1919.

Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed the common name, "Navassa Anole."

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific epithet, from the Latin, means "longhead" and obviously refers to the acuminate snout in this species.

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